

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 AID-10 DPW-01 EUR-10 IO-03 L-02

NSC-10 NSCE-00 RSR-01 /080 W  
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R 161259Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4663

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12805

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP 16 JULY 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL BIEN HOA DATED 16 JULY  
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0293

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 SITREP-16 JULY 1973

1. MILITARY CLASHES REPORTED BY MR3 G-2 IN 72 HOURS  
ENDING 0800 JULY 16 INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY TO 96- 34 IN  
FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD, 33 IN SECOND AND 29 IN FINAL. OF THESE  
19 WERE GROUND ATTACKS, 58 ATTACKS BY FIRE (10 OVER 20 ROUNDS),  
TWO COMBINED ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACKS, THREE SMALL  
ARMS HARASSMENTS, EIGHT MINE OR GRENADE DETONATION, THREE  
FIRING ON AIRCRAFT, AND THREE COMMUNIST TERRORIST INCIDENTS.  
GVN LOSSES WERE 11 KIA (FIVE CIVILIANS), 93 WOUNDED (25 CIVILIANS),  
ONE AN/PRC-25, ONE M-2 CARBINE, ONE 105MM HOWITZER DAMAGED 10  
PERCENT, TWO TRUCKS DAMAGED, AND SOME MISCELLANEOUS STORES LOST.

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COMMUNIST LOSSES REPORTED INCLUDED 27 KIA, 2 CAPTURED, FIVE AK-47S,

ONE M-16, ONE M-79, ONE K-54 AND TWO B-40 ROUNDS PLUS SOME SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION, TNT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. THERE WERE EIGHT RALLIERS.

2. HEAVIEST ACTIVITY HAS BEEN CONCENTRATED IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, WHERE 42 INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED, MOSTLY ALONG INTERPROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 1-A WHERE ARVN EFFORT TO OPEN ROAD CONTINUES TO MEET HEAVY COMMUNIST RESISTANCE. THERE WERE 11 CONTACTS IN BINH LONG, 10 IN HAU NGHIA, EIGHT IN LONG KHANH, SEVEN IN PHUOC LONG (MOSTLY ALONG NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 AND ROUTE 311 BETWEEN DONG XOAI AND SONG BE), SIX IN TAY NINH, FOUR IN PHUOC TUY, TWO EACH IN GIA DINH AND BIEN HOA, AND ONE IN LONG AN.

3. THE TWO XUAN LOC CANDELS HELD BY PRG, CPTS. THOMPSON AND FLETCHER, WERE RELEASED AFTERNOON JULY 15 AT YS695854, 18 KMS NE OF XUYEN MOC DISTRICT TOWN, PHUOC TUY PROVINCE, AFTER SCHEDULED JULY 14 RELEASE IN LONG KHANH WAS DELAYED BY PRG CLAIM THAT GVN WAS CONDUCTING OPERATIONS NEAR THE RELEASE SITE. (COMMENT: WE FIND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS CLAIM, BUT CANNOT RULE IT OUT ABSOLUTELY). END COMMENT. RELEASE WAS AT 1800, FOLLOWING TWO HOURS OF HAGGLING OVER SIGNATURE OF RECEIPT FOR THE RELEASE. HELICOPTER TOOK CANADIANS, TPJMC LIAISON OFFICERS, AND CANDEL AND HUNGDEL BACK TO SAIGON.

4. IN A DELAYED REPORT FROM TONLE CHAM RANGER BASE CAMP, DURING THE LATE EVENING HOURS OF JULY 11, COMMUNIST USED LOUD SPEAKERS FOR 15 MINUTES TO BROADCAST THREATS WARNING THE RANGER FORCE THAT DISREGARD FOR THE PARIS TRUCE AGREEMENT BY CONTINUED VIOLATIONS OF PRG AIR-CORRIDORS BY VNAF TO RESUPPLY, FLY IN REINFORCEMENTS AND ROTATE ARVN SOLDIERS INTO AND OUT OF THE ENCAMPMENT WOULD RESULT IN SEVERE REPRISALS AGAINST THE FRONTIER CAMP. AT THE SAME TIME, 2230 HOURS, AND FROM THE SAME SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION, VIC XT599803, MOTOR NOISES FROM APPROXIMATELY FIVE TRUCKS WERE HEARD JUST BEFORE THE START OF THE COMMUNIST ADMONISHMENTS. ON THE LATE MORNING HOURS OF JULY 14 AND THE AFTERNOON JULY 15, RVNAF AIRPLANES OVERFLYING THE CAMP AT 10,000 FEET TO DELIVER SUPPLIES WERE FIRED UPON BY COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNNERS WITH NO RESULTING DAMAGE TO EITHER AIRCRAFTS OR CREWS. AS OF MORNING JULY 14, MR3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN THAT ONLY ONE AIRCRAFT HAS SUCCEEDED IN LANDING AT TONLE CHAM, HE ORDERED VNAF 3RD AIR DIVISION CG, TAY NINH AND BINH LONG PROVINCE CHIEFS AND AN LOC RANGER COMMANDER

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TO COOPERATE IN CONCENTRATED EFFORT, BEGINNING EVENING JULY 16, TO ROTATE ALL 92ND RANGERS BY END OF THIS WEEK.

5. IN PRESENCE OF KEY SUBORDINATES AND CONGEN JULY 14, MINH BERATED ICCS FOR INABILITY TO FIND COMMUNISTS GUILTY OF VIOLATING CEASE-FIRE ACCORD. MINH SAID THAT HE NOW VIEWED ICCS AS "WORTHLESS" ORGANIZATION, HOPELESSLY DIVIDED ALONG IDEOLOGICAL LINES. HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT GVN COMPLAINTS ARE ABOUT TO REACH 5,000 AND THAT NOT A SINGLE ONE HAS BEEN

SUSTAINED. HE DERIDED CANADIANS FOR "EMBARRASSING" THE GVN AS A RESULT OF ALL THE PUBLICITY ACCORDED THE TWO MISSING CANADIANS. MINH SAID THAT THIS INCIDENT WAS MADE TO ORDER FOR THE COMMUNISTS, AND THEY EXPLOITED IT TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS IS A RADICAL CHANGE IN MINH'S ATTITUDE VIS-A-VIA THE ICCS, IT REPRESENTS FRUSTRATION MORE THAN PERSONAL FEELING. MINH IS A SICK MAN AND THUS HAS BECOME IMPATIENT AND A BIT TESTY, WHICH IS COMPLETELY OUT OF CHARACTER FOR HIM. HE TOLD CONGEN THAT PRESIDENT THIEU HAD CALLED HIM MORNING JULY 14, REPORTING THAT GEN WEYAND HAD SAID HE WASNT LOOKING WELL AND OFFERING HIM 15 DAYS AT CLARK AIR FORCE BASE. MINH SAID HE TOLD THIEU HE WOULD SEE HOW THINGS GO FOR THE NEXT WEEK OR SO. END COMMENT.

WALKNSHAW

UNQUOTE.

APPLING

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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